

In The Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A golf tee (10), characterized by a shaft (12) adapted for insertion into a surface of ground, and a pivotable support portion (16) mounted atop an upper end (18) of the shaft (12), the pivotable support portion (16) having a plurality of rigid upright prong members (40) of equal length mounted thereupon, the prong members (40) being arranged to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members (40) such that the golf ball is positioned substantially above the upright prong members (40) and the pivotable support portion (16) is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft (12) so as to assist in balancing the golf ball atop the prong members (40).
2. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the pivotable support portion (16) has an upper portion (14) and a lower portion (26), wherein the upper portion (14) includes a pivotable portion (36).
3. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 2, characterized in that the pivotable portion (36) is pivotably mounted adjacent the upper end (18) of the shaft (12) by a pivotable connection means (32).
4. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 3, characterized in that the pivotable connection means (32) is ball and socket assembly.
5. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (10) in accordance with ~~any~~ claim 2, characterized in that the lower portion (26) of the pivotable support portion (16) is provided with a socket (34), wherein the pivotable portion (36) is complementary in configuration to the socket (34), the pivotable portion (36) of the upper portion (14) being adapted to be engagingly received by the socket (34).

6. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the pivotable support portion (16) is threadingly engaged with the upper end (18) of the shaft (12).

7. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the shaft (12) is provided with a stopper portion (24) disposed adjacent to the upper end (18) of the shaft (12).

8. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 7, characterized in that the stopper portion (24) has a substantially horizontal upper surface (52) that is provided with a downwardly sloping surface (30), the downwardly sloping surface (30) being arranged, in use, to face towards a striking surface of a golf club.

9. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 8, characterized in that the downwardly sloping surface (30) has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.

10. (Currently Amended) The golf tee (10) in accordance with ~~claim 8~~ claim 8, characterized in that the stopper portion (24) is provided with a guidance marker (28), wherein the guidance marker (28) is disposed diametrically opposite the downwardly sloping surface (30).

11. (Cancelled) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 7, characterized in that the stopper portion (24) is provided with a plurality of leg portions extending downwardly from a lower surface thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) A golf tee (110), characterized by a base portion (13) having at least one cavity (15), ~~and at least one shaft (12) with~~ a pivotable support portion (16) arranged atop ~~the shaft (12)~~ the base portion (13), the pivotable support portion (16) having a plurality of rigid prong members (40) of equal length mounted thereupon, ~~the shaft (12) being pivotable relative to the base portion (13) between a first position in which the shaft (12) and wherein the~~ prong members (40) and the pivotable support portion (16) are pivotable relative to the base

portion (13) between a first position in which the prong members (40) are substantially upright and the prong members (40) are arranged to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members (40) such that the golf ball is positioned substantially above the upright prong members (40) and the pivotable support portion (16) is pivotable relative to a longitudinal axis of the shaft (12) so as to assist in balancing the golf ball atop the upright prong members (40); and a second position in which the shaft (12), support portion (16) and prong members (40) are disposed substantially within the cavity (15).

13. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (110) in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that each pivotable support portion (16) has three prong members (40) mounted thereupon.

14. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (110) in accordance with claim 13, characterized in that each prong member (40) has a pointed portion (42) at an upper end thereof.

15. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (110) in accordance with claim 14, characterized in that each pointed portion (42) is substantially conical.

16. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the prong members (40) are equidistantly and equiangularly arranged upon the pivotable support portion (16), the prong members (40) forming a support surface to support a golf ball placed atop the prong members (40), whilst maintaining minimal contact between a surface of the golf ball and prong members (40).

17. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that a longitudinal length of the plurality of prong members (40) on a single pivotable support portion (16) is substantially the same.

18. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 1, characterized in that the longitudinal length of the prong members (40) is variable and selected to suit a particular intended golf stroke.

19. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that the base portion (13) comprises a first portion (60) having a substantially horizontal upper surface (64) and a second portion (62) having a downwardly sloping surface (66), the downwardly sloping surface (66) being arranged, in use, to face towards a striking surface of a golf club.

20. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 19, characterized in that the downwardly sloping surface (66) has a gradient of 25° to the horizontal.

21. (Previously Presented) The golf tee (10) in accordance with claim 12, characterized in that the base portion (13) has three shafts (12) pivotably mounted thereupon.